

Syncope Work-Up Episode

Executive Summary

Episode Design

- **Trigger:** syncope diagnosis
- **Quarterback type:** professional (provider who makes the diagnosis)
- **Care included:** all syncope-related care including imaging and testing, surgical and medical procedures, and medications

Sources of Value

- Presentation to appropriate site of care
- Appropriate determination of differential diagnoses
- Avoidance of unnecessary diagnostic testing
- Appropriate choice of diagnostic testing, when indicated
- Appropriate site of care for continued care
- Appropriate treatment(s) to address the underlying cause
- Patient education and counseling to prevent repeat events
- Appropriate follow-up care – additional treatment, monitoring response to treatment
- Prevention of complications
- Restoration of functionality

Episode Duration



Quality Metrics

Tied to Gain-Sharing

- Carotid ultrasound imaging in adults (lower rate is better)

Informational Only

- Related admission during the post-trigger window
- Admission during the trigger window
- Related ED visit
- Related follow-up care
- EKG
- Head or neck CT or brain MRI imaging in adults
- Echocardiogram

Making Fair Comparisons

Exclusions

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., end-stage renal disease, patients receiving care in an inpatient setting during the trigger window, sepsis, active cancer management, DCS custody)
- Patient exclusions: age (less than 1 or greater than 64 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

Risk adjustment is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

To learn more about the episode's design, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.